

10/14/77

K

7726971

October 19th, 1977

DD256A

President James Carter
White House
Washington DC

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Dear President Carter:

I am Francisco R. Santucho, an Argentine citizen of 81 years of age, and together with my wife Manuela Juarez de Santucho have come to the United States to appeal for your intervention to protect members of our family who are being subjected to all forms of persecution and tortures by the military junta headed by General Jorge R. Videla. Their only crime is to be related to the late Mario Roberto Santucho, our son, who was assassinated by the armed forces and police on July 19th, 1976, in Buenos Aires.

Mario Roberto was a leader of the struggle of the Argentine people against repression, torture, and other abuses which have become every day occurrences in our country. As a consequence of Mario Roberto's fight for freedom, our whole family has been persecuted, murdered and subjected to torture as follows:

We have already lost:

- ** Ana Maria Villareal de Santucho, first wife of Mario Roberto, was murdered in Trelew prison, in Argentina in 1972;
- ** Maria del Valle Santucho, our grand daughter, was murdered in 1975;
- ** Francisco Rene, Carlos Hiber, and Oscar Asdrubal, our sons, have been killed;

We have no news of:

- ** Manuela Santucho, our daughter;
- ** Cristina Navaja de Santucho, our daughter in law, nor of Liliana Delfino, second wife of Mario Roberto. They were kidnapped and are presently held in concentration camps maintained by the Videla government,
- ** Mercedes Santucho, our grand daughter, was kidnapped on May 15, 1977 in Cordoba;

80F178
22/185

ing held in Paraguay without trial since 1975 in spite of
that the Government of Sweden has granted him a visa and that
various International institutions have pleaded for his release;

Mr President, aware of your stated commitment to the respect
of human rights and their defense throughout the world, we beg you to
intercede on our behalf, and on behalf of those people and institutions
in the United States and throughout the world who share our concerns
to obtain the following from the Argentine and Paraguayan authorities:

**The release of our son Amilcar Santucho, held in Paraguay
since 1975;

** Information on the whereabouts, health and legal status
of Manuela Santucho who was arrested solely for being the sister of Mario
Roberto; and request that she be allowed to leave Argentina for the
country of her choice as guaranteed by the Argentine Constitution.

** Information on the whereabouts, health and legal status
of Cristina Navaja and Liliana Delfino, and that they be allowed to
leave Argentina for exile in the country of their choice as guaranteed
by the Argentine Constitution.

** Information on the whereabouts, health and legal status
of Mercedes Santucho, who was kidnapped on 15th May 1977;

** The release of Graciela Santucho, who has been held for
three years without trial;

Mr. President we wish you to know that although this is
our personal situation, it is the same as that of thousands of other
parents and relatives of political prisoners in Argentina who have
been murdered, tortured, or degraded in horrifying ways. All forms
of political activity have been outlawed, workers are not allowed
to organize in trade unions, and fundamental civil and democratic
rights have been abolished. Thousands of people are being held without
trial or even specific charges against them. We are not the only
victims of the persecution of the military junta.

As parents we hope for, and trust we will receive, your
support in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and
meeting with you and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter to share in person our
experiences and our concerns.

Francisco R. Santucho

respectfully yours
Manuela Juarez de Santucho